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(54) Laser diode driving method and circuit

Verfahren und Schaltkreis zur Diodenlaseransteuerung

Méthode et circuit de commande pour un laser à diode

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- **PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN** vol. 015, no. 098 (E-1042), 8 March 1991 (1991-03-08) & JP 02 308584 A (TOSHIBA CORP), 21 December 1990 (1990-12-21)
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Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a laser diode driving method and circuit for controlling an optical output and extinction ratio at a constant level in correspondence with deterioration of the laser diode with time.

[0002] An example of a laser diode driving circuit used in an optical transmission system or the like is disclosed in JP-A-2-308584 in which the optical output from the laser diode is controlled at a constant level regardless of the ambient temperature.

[0003] Said JP-A-02-308584 discloses a laser diode driving method comprising the steps of adjusting, in accordance with an ambient temperature, a bias current of a laser diode; and driving the laser diode by a current prepared by superposing the bias current and a pulse current, thereby controlling an optical output of the laser diode at a constant level. Said document also discloses a laser diode driving circuit comprising a laser diode, a temperature sensor, memory means and current control means.

[0004] EP-A-0580317 discloses a method of driving laser diodes under varying environmental conditions and that a micro-controller may be utilized for adjusting the bias current and the modulation current as a function of environmental conditions.

[0005] Fig. 5 shows the arrangement of a conventional laser diode driving circuit for controlling the optical output from the laser diode.

[0006] A laser diode LD is driven by a current prepared by superposing a driving current I_d and a bias current I_b . The driving current I_d is a pulse current based on transmission data, whereas the bias current I_b is a base current for causing the LD to emit light by induced emission. A temperature sensor 110 generates a voltage corresponding to the ambient temperature and outputs the voltage as an analog temperature signal representing the ambient temperature to an A/D converter 120. The A/D converter 120 converts the input temperature signal into a digital signal and outputs the digital signal to a memory 150.

[0007] The memory 150 uses input digital signal as an address signal to read out digital data stored at the corresponding address from the memory 150 and output the data to a D/A converter 130. The D/A converter 130 converts the input digital data into an analog signal and outputs the analog signal to a current controller 140. The current controller 140 controls an emitter current I_s common to transistors Q1 and Q2 in accordance with the analog signal from the D/A converter 130.

[0008] The operation of the laser diode driving circuit will be described.

[0009] A pre-bias signal is applied to the base of the transistor Q1. Assume that the state in which the pre-bias signal voltage is higher than a reference voltage (-VR) is a disable state. In the disable state, the transistor Q1 is turned on, the transistor Q2 is turned off, and the laser diode LD is not driven. Assume that the state

in which the pre-bias signal voltage is lower than the reference voltage (-VR) is an enable state. In the enable state, the transistor Q1 is turned off, the transistor Q2 is turned on, and the laser diode LD is driven by a current, i.e., a current which changes between I_b and I_b+I_d , prepared by superposing the driving current I_d and the bias current I_b generated by the current controller 140.

[0010] In the memory 150, data about the bias current corresponding to the ambient temperature is stored.

5 When data obtained by digitally converting a temperature signal representing the ambient temperature is input from the A/D converter 120 to the address line of the memory 150, the memory 150 outputs data about the bias current corresponding to the ambient temperature to the data line.

[0011] The D/A converter 130 D/A-converts the bias current data output to the data line, and outputs the analog signal to the current controller 140. The current controller 140 controls the emitter current of the transistors Q1 and Q2 in accordance with the analog signal output from the D/A converter 130.

[0012] In the laser diode driving circuit, the emitter current I_s is adjusted in correspondence with the ambient temperature. That is, when the ambient temperature changes, data on the address line changes, and data about a new bias current appears on the data line. The D/A converter 130 D/A-converts the data on the data line, and the current controller 140 converts the signal output from the D/A converter 130 into a current.

20 **[0013]** At this time, if the pre-bias signal changes to the enable state, the laser diode LD is driven by a current prepared by superposing the driving current I_d on the new bias current I_b is adjusted in correspondence with the ambient temperature.

[0014] The laser diode driving circuit employs a feed forward controller. Since the circuit performs control for only optical output fluctuation conditions set in advance, it cannot control the optical output from the laser diode in correspondence with optical output fluctuation conditions other than ambient temperature fluctuations. For this reason, e.g., when the laser diode deteriorates with time to decrease the optical output, the optical output may be smaller than its lower limit defined in the optical transmission system.

40 **[0015]** In the laser diode driving circuit, light emission may delay, the extinction ratio may decrease, and the quality of the transmission system may degrade because no consideration is given to temperature fluctuations in differential quantum efficiency of the laser diode.

50 That is, the optical output is controlled at a constant level by changing only the bias current without changing the driving current in correspondence with the ambient temperature.

[0016] Figs. 1A and 1B show the current vs. optical output characteristics of a general laser diode. Fig. 1A shows current vs. optical output characteristics when the bias current and the driving current are ideally distributed. Fig. 1B shows current vs. optical output char-

acteristics when the driving current is kept constant.

[0017] In Figs. 1A and 1B, t₁, t₂, and t₃ (t₁ < t₂ < t₃) represent ambient temperatures; I_{sn}, I_{dn}, and I_{ln} (n = 1, 2, 3), the bias current, the driving current, and the light emission threshold current of the laser diode; and P_o, the optical output. The laser diode driving circuit controls the optical output P_o at a constant level at the respective temperatures. The laser diode has such a characteristic that both the bias current I_s and driving current I_d required to obtain a constant optical output P_o increase along with an increase in ambient temperature. As shown in Fig. 1A, it is ideal for efficiently driving the laser diode that the bias current I_s is set about the light emission threshold current I_{th} of the laser diode, and the driving current I_d is superposed on the bias current I_s to keep the optical output constant.

[0018] In the laser diode driving circuit in Fig. 5 for controlling the optical output at a constant level by changing the bias current I_s while keeping the driving current I_d constant, if the bias current I_{s2} and the driving current I_{d2} are optimum at an ambient temperature t₂, but the ambient temperature decreases to t₁, the set value I_{s1} of the bias current becomes smaller than the light emission threshold current I_{th1} to delay light emission. If the ambient temperature increases from t₂ to t₃, the set value I_{s3} of the bias current exceeds the light emission threshold current I_{th3} to decrease the extinction ratio, failing to obtain a reliable extinction state.

[0019] It is an object of the present invention to provide a laser diode driving method and circuit capable of controlling an optical output and extinction ratio at a constant level against an optical output fluctuation factor such as deterioration of the laser diode with time that cannot be set in advance.

[0020] It is another object of the present invention to provide a laser diode driving method and circuit capable of controlling the optical output and extinction ratio of the laser diode at a constant level regardless of the ambient temperature.

[0021] These objects are achieved with the features of the claims.

[0022] Embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail below with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Figs. 1A and 1B are graphs each showing the current vs. optical output characteristics of a laser diode;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing the arrangement of a laser diode driving circuit according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a block diagram showing the arrangement of a laser diode driving circuit according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a block diagram showing the arrangement of a laser diode driving circuit according to the third embodiment of the present invention; and

Fig. 5 is a block diagram showing the arrangement

of a conventional laser diode driving circuit.

First Embodiment

5 [0023] Fig. 2 shows the arrangement of a laser diode driving circuit according to the first embodiment of the present invention. The laser diode driving circuit of the first embodiment comprises a temperature sensor 10, A/D converters 20 and 21, D/A converters 30 to 32, current controllers 40 to 42, a memory 50, an average detector 57, an inverting amplifier 65, a low-pass filter (LPF) 70, a switch 75, an LD module 80 constituted by a laser diode 81 and a monitor photodiode (to be referred to as a monitor PD hereinafter) 82 for detecting the optical output from the laser diode 81, and transistors Q1 and Q2.

[0024] In the laser diode driving circuit, the A/D converter 21, the D/A converter 32, the current controller 42, the memory 50, the average detector 57, the inverting amplifier 65, the LPF 70, and the switch 75 constitute a laser diode time deterioration compensation circuit 1. The average detector 57, the inverting amplifier 65, and the LPF 70 constitute a time deterioration state detection means.

25 [0025] The laser diode 81 and monitor PD 82 constituting the LD module 80 are formed on the same substrate by the same process.

[0026] The temperature sensor 10 generates a voltage in correspondence with the ambient temperature 30 and outputs the voltage as a temperature signal to the A/D converter 20. The A/D converter 20 A/D-converts the temperature signal and outputs the analog signal as an address to the memory 50.

35 [0027] Data about the pulse current, the bias current, and a light-receiving current I_r of the monitor PD 82 before deterioration is stored in the memory 50 at each address corresponding to the ambient temperature. The values of the pulse current and bias current stored in the memory 50 are determined to keep the optical output 40 and extinction ratio of the laser diode 81 constant against fluctuations in ambient temperature.

[0028] The memory 50 outputs pulse current data and bias current data stored at the address designated by the A/D converter 20 to the D/A converters 30 and 31, respectively. The D/A converters 30 and 31 respectively D/A-convert the digital data output from the memory 50 and output the analog signals to the current controllers 40 and 41.

50 [0029] The current controller 40 adjusts a constant current I_{ac} common to the transistors Q1 and Q2 in accordance with the analog signal from the D/A converter 30. The current controller 41 adjusts a constant current I_{dc} in accordance with the analog signal from the D/A converter 31.

55 [0030] The detailed arrangement of the laser diode time deterioration compensation circuit 1 will be explained. The light-receiving current I_r of the monitor PD 82 is input to the average detector 57. The average de-

tector 57 detects the average of the light-receiving current I_r , converts it into a voltage signal, and outputs the voltage signal to the A/D converter 21 and the inverting input terminal of the inverting amplifier 65.

[0031] The A/D converter 21 A/D-converts the input voltage from the average detector 57. The data digitally converted by the A/D converter 21 is output to the memory 50 via the switch 75.

[0032] In the memory 50, the data input from the A/D converter 21 is stored at an address corresponding to the temperature detected by the temperature sensor 10. This data serves as a reference voltage in compensating the optical output upon deterioration of the laser diode.

[0033] The memory 50 outputs the reference voltage data to the D/A converter 32 via the switch 75. The D/A converter 32 D/A-converts the data and outputs the analog signal to the non-inverting input terminal of the inverting amplifier 65.

[0034] The inverting amplifier 65 uses the voltage input from the D/A converter 32 to the non-inverting input terminal as a reference voltage to invert and amplify the voltage input from the average detector 57 to the inverting input terminal and output the voltage to the LPF 70.

[0035] The LPF 70 smoothes the inverted/amplified voltage and outputs the resultant voltage to the current controller 42. The current controller 42 adjusts a constant current I_{apc} in accordance with the output signal from the LPF 70.

[0036] The operation of the laser diode driving circuit according to the first embodiment will be explained with reference to a numerical example.

[0037] The temperature sensor 10 detects an ambient temperature of -40 to +115 °C, converts the detected temperature into a voltage of 0 to 2 V, and outputs the voltage. The A/D converter 20 converts the voltage output from the temperature sensor 10 into 7-bit digital data and outputs the data as an address to the memory 50.

[0038] The memory 50 outputs to the D/A converter 30 7-bit pulse current data stored at an address output from the A/D converter 20, and outputs to the D/A converter 31 5-bit bias current data stored at the same address.

[0039] The D/A converter 30 D/A-converts the input digital data and outputs the analog signal to the current controller 40. Similarly, the D/A converter 31 D/A-converts the input digital data and outputs the analog signal to the current controller 41.

[0040] The current controller 40 adjusts the constant current I_{apc} common to the transistors Q1 and Q2 between 0 mA and 70 mA in accordance with the analog signal from the D/A converter 30.

[0041] An input signal to the base of the transistor Q2 is a signal based on transmission data, and an inverted input signal to the base of the transistor Q1 is a signal obtained by inverting the input signal.

[0042] When the input signal is at high level, the transistor Q2 is turned on, the transistor Q1 is turned off,

and the constant current I_{dc} flows through the laser diode 81. When the input signal is at low level, the transistor Q1 is turned on, the transistor Q2 is turned off, and no constant current I_{dc} flows through the laser diode 81. That is, the constant current I_{dc} drives the laser diode 81 as a pulse current based on transmission data.

[0043] The current controller 41 adjusts the constant current I_{dc} between 0 mA and 50 mA in accordance with the analog signal from the D/A converter 31. The constant current I_{dc} directly flows through the laser diode 81 and drives it as a bias current.

[0044] The operation of the laser diode time deterioration compensation circuit 1 will be explained. The light-receiving current I_r of the monitor PD 82 is input to the average detector 57. The average detector 57 detects the average of the light-receiving current I_r , converts it into a voltage of 0 to 550 mV, and outputs the voltage to the A/D converter 21 and the inverting input terminal of the inverting amplifier 65.

[0045] The A/D converter 21 converts the voltage output from the average detector 57 into 5-bit digital data. The data digitally converted by the A/D converter 21 is output to the memory 50 via the switch 75.

[0046] In the memory 50, the data input from the A/D converter 21 is stored at an address corresponding to the temperature detected by the temperature sensor 10. This data is used as an initial output value of the monitor PD, i.e., reference voltage data before deterioration of the laser diode 81.

[0047] The memory 50 outputs the reference voltage data to the D/A converter 32 via the switch 75. The D/A converter 32 converts the reference voltage data into a voltage of 0 to 550 mV and outputs the voltage to the non-inverting input terminal of the inverting amplifier 65.

[0048] The switch 75 connects either the A/D converter 21 or the D/A converter 32 to the memory 50. The switch 75 switches to the A/D converter 21 side (②) in writing the reference voltage data in the memory 50, and to the D/A converter 32 side (①) in reading out the reference voltage data from the memory 50.

[0049] The inverting amplifier 65 uses the voltage input from the D/A converter 32 to the non-inverting input terminal as a reference voltage to invert and amplify the voltage input from the average detector 57 to the inverting input terminal and output the voltage to the LPF 70.

[0050] The LPF 70 smoothes the inverted/amplified voltage and outputs the resultant voltage to the current controller 42. The current controller 42 adjusts the constant current I_{apc} between 0 mA and 30 mA in accordance with the output signal from the LPF 70. The constant current I_{apc} directly flows through the laser diode 81 and drives it as a bias current, similarly to the constant current I_{dc} . That is, the current controller 42 adjusts the constant current I_{apc} in correspondence with a decrease in light-receiving current I_r of the monitor PD 82 caused by deterioration of the laser diode 81 over time.

A decrease in bias current caused by deterioration of the laser diode 81 over time is compensated up to 30

mA by the constant current I_{apc} .

[0051] According to the first embodiment, the optical output fluctuating upon deterioration of the laser diode 81 over time is controlled at a constant level. More specifically, data about the light-receiving current I_r of the monitor PD 82 when the laser diode 81 before deterioration outputs a desired light power is stored in the memory 50 for each temperature. The initial data stored in the memory 50 is used as a reference value. A decrease in light-receiving current I_r of the monitor PD 82 is detected as a decrease in optical output from the laser diode 81 on the basis of the reference value, and feedback control for increasing the bias current is performed. Accordingly, the optical output can be compensated by an amount corresponding to deterioration of the laser diode 81, and the optical output can be controlled at a constant level.

[0052] The measured data of the light-receiving current I_r is used as a reference value, which includes variations in an individual laser diode and another device. Therefore, the optical output and the extinction ratio can be controlled without any special adjustment for the time deterioration compensation circuit 1.

[0053] Not only the bias current but also the pulse current can be independently controlled in correspondence with the ambient temperature. More specifically, the bias current and the pulse current are stored in the memory 50 at an address corresponding to the ambient temperature. The bias current and pulse current corresponding to the ambient temperature drive the laser diode 81. In this case, since the bias current and the pulse current can be independently controlled, not only the optical output but also the extinction ratio can be controlled at a constant level in correspondence with the ambient temperature by storing the bias current and the pulse current in the memory 50 in accordance with the current vs. optical output characteristics of each laser diode 81 for each temperature. As a result, the laser diode driving circuit can drive the laser diode suitably for the transmission system without any light emission delay and any failure to obtain a reliable extinction state due to a decrease in extinction ratio.

Second Embodiment

[0054] The second embodiment of the present invention will be described below with reference to Fig. 3.

[0055] Fig. 3 shows the arrangement of a laser diode driving circuit according to the second embodiment of the present invention. The laser diode driving circuit of the second embodiment comprises a preamplifier 55 and a peak detector 60 instead of the average detector 57 in the first embodiment shown in Fig. 2. Since the remaining arrangement is the same as in the first embodiment shown in Fig. 2, the same reference numerals as in Fig. 2 denote the same parts, and a description thereof will be omitted.

[0056] A light-receiving current I_r of a monitor PD 82

is input to the preamplifier 55 and converted into a voltage signal. The voltage signal is output to the peak detector 60. The peak detector 60 detects the peak voltage of the voltage signal output from the preamplifier 55, and outputs the detection voltage to an A/D converter 21 and the inverting input terminal of an inverting amplifier 65. The remaining operation is the same as in the first embodiment.

[0057] In the first embodiment, deterioration of the laser diode 81 over time is compensated based on the average of the light-receiving current I_r of the monitor PD 82. In the second embodiment, deterioration of the laser diode 81 over time is compensated based on the peak value of the light-receiving current I_r of the monitor PD 82.

[0058] In the first embodiment, when a burst signal is used as transmission data, the average of the light-receiving current I_r of the monitor PD 82 is very low, and fluctuations in light-receiving current I_r of the monitor PD 82 are difficult to detect. For this reason, deterioration of the laser diode 81 cannot be determined.

[0059] In the second embodiment, however, since the peak value of the light-receiving current I_r of the monitor PD 82 is detected, even if a burst signal is used as transmission data, deterioration of the laser diode 81 over time can be determined, and a decrease in optical output can be compensated in correspondence with a decrease in peak value.

Third Embodiment

[0060] The third embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to Fig. 4.

[0061] Fig. 4 shows the arrangement of a laser diode driving circuit according to the third embodiment of the present invention. The laser diode driving circuit of the third embodiment has the same constituent elements as in the second embodiment shown in Fig. 3 except that a current controller 42 controls two different constant currents, i.e., a constant current I_{apc1} and a constant current I_{apc2} . Since the remaining arrangement is the same as in the second embodiment shown in Fig. 3, the same reference numerals as in Fig. 3 denote the same parts, and a description thereof will be omitted.

[0062] The constant current I_{apc1} serves as a bias current directly flowing through a laser diode 81, whereas the constant current I_{apc2} serves as a pulse current controlled by an input signal.

[0063] More specifically, in the third embodiment, both the bias current and the pulse current are compensated in accordance with deterioration of the laser diode 81 over time. The optical output and the extinction ratio can be controlled at a constant level in correspondence with deterioration of the laser diode 81 over time.

Fourth Embodiment

[0064] The third embodiment adopts the preamplifier

55 and the peak detector 60. However, in the arrangement of the third embodiment shown in Fig. 4, an average detector 57 may replace the preamplifier 55 and the peak detector 60, and deterioration of a laser diode 81 over time may be compensated based on the average of the light-receiving current I_r of a monitor PD 82, similarly to the first embodiment.

Claims

1. A laser diode driving method comprising the steps of:

adjusting, in accordance with an ambient temperature, a bias current set about a light emission threshold current of a laser diode (81), and a pulse current for causing the laser diode to emit light;.

adjusting the bias current in accordance with a deterioration state of the laser diode over time driving the laser diode by a current prepared by superposing the bias current (I_{dc} , I_{apc}) and the pulse current (I_{ac}), thereby controlling an optical output of the laser diode at a constant level; storing, in correspondence with ambient temperatures, initial output values of a monitor photodiode (82) for detecting the optical output of the laser diode (81);

obtaining an initial output value corresponding to a current ambient temperature from the stored output values; and comparing the initial output value with a current output value of the monitor photodiode, thereby confirming the deterioration state of the laser diode over time.

2. A laser diode driving method comprising the steps of:

adjusting, in accordance with an ambient temperature and a deterioration state of a laser diode (81) over time, a bias current set about a light emission threshold current of the laser diode, and a pulse current for causing the laser diode to emit light;

driving the laser diode by a current-prepared by superposing the bias current (I_{dc} , I_{apc1}) and the pulse current (I_{ac} , I_{apc2}), thereby controlling an optical output and extinction ratio of the laser diode at a constant level;

storing, in correspondence with ambient temperatures, initial output values of a monitor photodiode (82) for detecting the optical output of the laser diode (81);

obtaining an initial output value corresponding to a current ambient temperature from the stored output values; and

comparing the initial output value with a current output value of the monitor photodiode, thereby confirming the deterioration state of the laser diode over time.

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the deterioration state of the laser diode (81) with time is confirmed using an average of outputs of a monitor photodiode (82) for detecting the optical output of the laser diode.

4. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the deterioration state of the laser diode (81) with time is confirmed using a peak value of outputs of a monitor photodiode (82) for detecting the optical output of the laser diode.

5. A laser diode driving circuit comprising:

a laser diode (81);
a temperature sensor (10) for detecting an ambient temperature;
a monitor photodiode (82) for detecting an optical output of said laser diode;
memory means (50) for storing, in correspondence with ambient temperatures, bias current values set about a light emission threshold current of said laser diode, pulse current values for causing said laser diode to emit light, and initial output values of said monitor photodiode, and outputting a bias current value, pulse current value, and initial output value of said monitor photodiode corresponding to an ambient temperature detected by said temperature sensor; time deterioration state detection means (55, 57, 60, 65, 70) for comparing the initial output value of said monitor photodiode output from said memory means with a current output value, and generating a signal representing a deterioration state of said laser diode over time; and

current control means (40, 41, 42) for determining a pulse current (I_{ac}) for said laser diode on the basis of the pulse current value output from said memory means, determining a bias current (I_{dc} , I_{apc}) for said laser diode on the basis of the bias current value output from said memory means and the signal representing the deterioration state over time output from said time deterioration state detection means, and driving said laser diode by a current prepared by superposing the bias current and the pulse current.

- 55 6. A laser diode driving circuit comprising:

a laser diode (81);
a temperature sensor (10) for detecting an am-

- bient temperature;
a monitor photodiode (82) for detecting an optical output of said laser diode;
memory means (50) for storing, in correspondence with ambient temperatures, bias current values set about a light emission threshold current of said laser diode, pulse current values for causing said laser diode to emit light, and initial output values of said monitor photodiode, and outputting a bias current value, pulse current value, and initial output value of said monitor photodiode corresponding to an ambient temperature detected by said temperature sensor; time deterioration state detection means (55, 57, 60, 65, 70) for comparing the initial output value of said monitor photodiode output from said memory means with a current output value, and generating a signal representing a deterioration state of said laser diode over time; and
current control means (40, 41, 42) for determining a bias current (Idc , $Iapc1$) and pulse current (Iac , $Iapc2$) for said laser diode on the basis of the bias current value and pulse current value output from said memory means and the signal representing the deterioration state over time output from said time deterioration state detection means, and driving said laser diode by a current prepared by superposing the bias current and the pulse current.
7. A circuit according to claim 5 or 6, wherein said memory means stores an average of the initial outputs of said monitor photodiode, and
said time deterioration state detection means comprises an average detector for detecting an average of current outputs of said monitor photodiode.
8. A circuit according to claim 5 or 6, wherein said memory means stores a peak value of the initial outputs of said monitor photodiode, and
said time deterioration state detection means comprises a peak detector for detecting a peak value of current outputs of said monitor photodiode.
- Patentansprüche**
1. Laserdiodenansteuerungsverfahren mit den folgenden Schritten:
- Einstellen eines Vorspannungsstroms, der an nähernd auf einen Lichtemissionsschwellenstrom einer Laserdiode (81) festgesetzt ist, und eines Impulsstroms, um eine Lichtemission der Laserdiode herbeizuführen, entsprechend einer Umgebungstemperatur;
Einstellen des Vorspannungsstroms entspre-
- chend einem zeitabhängigen Leistungsminderungszustand der Laserdiode;
Ansteuern der Laserdiode durch einen Strom, der durch Überlagerung des Vorspannungsstroms (Idc , $Iapc$) und des Impulsstroms (Iac) erzeugt wird, wodurch ein optisches Ausgangssignal der Laserdiode auf einen konstanten Pegel geregelt wird;
Speichern von Ausgangssignal-Anfangswerten einer Monitorphotodiode (82) zur Erfassung des optischen Ausgangssignals der Laserdiode (81) in Übereinstimmung mit Umgebungstemperaturen;
- Ermitteln eines Ausgangssignal-Anfangswerts entsprechend einer aktuellen Umgebungstemperatur aus den gespeicherten Ausgangssignalwerten; und
- Vergleich des Ausgangssignal-Anfangswerts mit einem aktuellen Ausgangssignalwert der Monitorphotodiode, wodurch der zeitabhängige Leistungsminderungszustand der Laserdiode bestätigt wird.
2. Laserdiodenansteuerungsverfahren mit den folgenden Schritten:
- Einstellen eines Vorspannungsstroms, der an nähernd auf einen Lichtemissionsschwellenstrom der Laserdiode festgesetzt ist, und eines Impulsstroms, um eine Lichtemission der Laserdiode herbeizuführen, entsprechend einer Umgebungstemperatur und einem zeitabhängigen Leistungsminderungszustand der Laserdiode (81);
Ansteuern der Laserdiode durch einen Strom, der durch Überlagerung des Vorspannungsstroms (Idc , $Iapc1$) und des Impulsstroms (Iac , $Iapc2$) erzeugt wird, wodurch ein optisches Ausgangssignal und ein Extinktionsverhältnis der Laserdiode auf einen konstanten Pegel geregelt werden;
- Speichern von Ausgangssignal-Anfangswerten einer Monitorphotodiode (82) zur Erfassung des optischen Ausgangssignals der Laserdiode (81) in Übereinstimmung mit Umgebungstemperaturen;
- Ermitteln eines Ausgangssignal-Anfangswerts entsprechend einer aktuellen Umgebungstemperatur aus den gespeicherten Ausgangssignalwerten; und
- Vergleich des Ausgangssignal-Anfangswerts mit einem aktuellen Ausgangssignalwert der Monitorphotodiode, wodurch der zeitabhängige Leistungsminderungszustand der Laserdiode bestätigt wird.
3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, wobei der zeitabhängige Leistungsminderungszustand der La-

- serdiode (81) durch Verwendung eines Mittelwerts von Ausgangssignalen einer Monitorphotodiode (82) zur Erfassung des optischen Ausgangssignals der Laserdiode bestätigt wird.
4. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, wobei der zeitabhängige Leistungsminderungszustand der Laserdiode (81) unter Verwendung eines Spitzenwerts von Ausgangssignalen einer Monitorphotodiode (82) zur Erfassung des optischen Ausgangssignals der Laserdiode bestätigt wird.
5. Schaltkreis zur Ansteuerung einer Laserdiode, der aufweist:
- 15 eine Laserdiode (81); einen Temperaturfühler (10) zur Erfassung einer Umgebungstemperatur; eine Monitorphotodiode (82) zur Erfassung eines optischen Ausgangssignals der Laserdiode;
- 20 eine Speichereinrichtung (50) zum Speichern von Vorspannungsstromwerten, die annähernd auf einen Lichtemissionsschwellenstrom der Laserdiode festgesetzt sind, von Impulsstromwerten, um eine Lichtemission der Laserdiode herbeizuführen, und von Ausgangssignal-Anfangswerten der Monitorphotodiode in Übereinstimmung mit Umgebungstemperaturen sowie zur Ausgabe eines Vorspannungsstromwerts, eines Impulsstromwerts und eines Ausgangssignal-Anfangswerts der Monitorphotodiode entsprechend einer durch den Temperaturfühler erfaßten Umgebungstemperatur;
- 25 eine Erfassungseinrichtung (55, 57, 60, 65, 70) für den zeitabhängigen Leistungsminderungszustand zum Vergleich des Ausgangssignal-Anfangswerts des Ausgangssignals der Monitorphotodiode aus der Speichereinrichtung mit einem aktuellen Ausgangssignalwert und zur Erzeugung eines Signals, das einen zeitabhängigen Leistungsminderungszustand der Laserdiode darstellt; und
- 30 eine Stromregelungseinrichtung (40, 41, 42) zur Bestimmung eines Impulsstroms (lac) für die Laserdiode auf der Basis des von der Speichereinrichtung ausgegebenen Impulsstromwerts, zur Bestimmung eines Vorspannungsstroms (ldc, lac) für die Laserdiode auf der Basis des von der Speichereinrichtung ausgegebenen Vorspannungsstromwerts und des von der Erfassungseinrichtung für den zeitabhängigen Leistungsminderungszustand ausgegebenen Signals, das den zeitabhängigen Leistungsminderungszustand darstellt, und zum Ansteuern der Laserdiode durch einen Strom, der durch Überlagerung des Vorspannungsstroms und des Impulsstroms erzeugt wird.
- 35 40 45 50 55
6. Schaltkreis zur Ansteuerung einer Laserdiode, der aufweist:
- eine Laserdiode (81); einen Temperaturfühler (10) zur Erfassung einer Umgebungstemperatur; eine Monitorphotodiode (82) zur Erfassung eines optischen Ausgangssignals der Laserdiode;
- 60 eine Speichereinrichtung (50) zum Speichern von Vorspannungsstromwerten, die annähernd auf einen Lichtemissionsschwellenstrom der Laserdiode festgesetzt sind, von Impulsstromwerten, um eine Lichtemission der Laserdiode herbeizuführen, und von Ausgangssignal-Anfangswerten der Monitorphotodiode in Übereinstimmung mit Umgebungstemperaturen sowie zur Ausgabe eines Vorspannungsstromwerts, eines Impulsstromwerts und eines Ausgangssignal-Anfangswerts der Monitorphotodiode entsprechend einer durch den Temperaturfühler erfaßten Umgebungstemperatur;
- 65 eine Erfassungseinrichtung (55, 57, 60, 65, 70) für den zeitabhängigen Leistungsminderungszustand zum Vergleich des Ausgangssignal-Anfangswerts des Ausgangssignals der Monitorphotodiode aus der Speichereinrichtung mit einem aktuellen Ausgangssignalwert und zur Erzeugung eines Signals, das einen zeitabhängigen Leistungsminderungszustand der Laserdiode darstellt; und
- 70 eine Stromregelungseinrichtung (40, 41, 42) zur Bestimmung eines Vorspannungsstroms (ldc, larc1) und eines Impulsstroms (lac, larc2) für die Laserdiode auf der Basis des von der Speichereinrichtung ausgegebenen Vorspannungsstromwerts und Impulsstromwerts und des von der Erfassungseinrichtung für den zeitabhängigen Leistungsminderungszustand ausgegebenen Signals, das den zeitabhängigen Leistungsminderungszustand darstellt, und zum Ansteuern der Laserdiode durch einen Strom, der durch Überlagerung des Vorspannungsstroms und des Impulsstroms erzeugt wird.
7. Schaltkreis nach Anspruch 5 oder 6, wobei die Speichereinrichtung einen Mittelwert der Ausgangssignal-Anfangswerte der Monitorphotodiode speichert, und
- 75 wobei die Erfassungseinrichtung für den zeitabhängigen Leistungsminderungszustand einen Mittelwertdetektor zum Erfassen eines Mittelwerts der aktuellen Ausgangssignale der Monitorphotodiode aufweist.
8. Schaltkreis nach Anspruch 5 oder 6, wobei die Speichereinrichtung einen Spitzenwert der Aus-

gangssignal-Anfangswerte der Monitorphotodiode speichert, und

wobei die Erfassungseinrichtung für den zeit-abhängigen Leistungsminderungszustand einen Spitzenwertdetektor zur Erfassung eines Spitzenwerts der aktuellen Ausgangssignale der Monitorphotodiode aufweist.

les d'une photodiode (82) de surveillance pour détecter la sortie optique de la diode laser (81) ; obtention d'une valeur de sortie initiale correspondant à une température ambiante courante à partir des valeurs de sortie stockées ; et comparaison de la valeur de sortie initiale avec une valeur de sortie courante de la photodiode de surveillance, confirmant ainsi l'état de détérioration de la diode laser en fonction du temps.

Revendications

1. Procédé de commande de diode laser, comprenant les étapes suivantes :

ajustement, selon une température ambiante, d'un courant de polarisation réglé autour d'un courant de seuil d'émission de lumière d'une diode laser (81), et d'un courant d'impulsion pour faire émettre de la lumière à la diode laser ;

ajustement du courant de polarisation selon un état de détérioration de la diode laser en fonction du temps ;

commande de la diode laser par un courant préparé en superposant le courant de polarisation (Idc , $lapc$) et le courant d'impulsion (lac), contrôlant ainsi une sortie optique de la diode laser à un niveau constant ;

stockage, en correspondance avec les températures ambiantes, des valeurs de sortie initiales d'une photodiode (82) de surveillance pour détecter la sortie optique de la diode laser (81) ; obtention d'une valeur de sortie initiale correspondant à une température ambiante courante à partir des valeurs de sortie stockées ; et comparaison de la valeur de sortie initiale avec une valeur de sortie courante de la photodiode de surveillance, confirmant ainsi l'état de détérioration de la diode laser en fonction du temps.

2. Procédé de commande de diode laser, comprenant les étapes suivantes :

ajustement, selon une température ambiante et un état de détérioration d'une diode laser (81) au cours du temps, d'un courant de polarisation réglé autour d'un courant de seuil d'émission de lumière de la diode laser et d'un courant d'impulsion pour faire émettre de la lumière à la diode laser ;

commande de la diode laser par un courant préparé en superposant le courant de polarisation (Idc , $lapc1$) et le courant d'impulsion (lac , $lapc2$), contrôlant ainsi une sortie optique et un rapport d'extinction de la diode laser à un niveau constant ;

stockage, en correspondance avec les températures ambiantes, des valeurs de sortie initia-

10 3. Procédé selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel l'état de détérioration de la diode laser (81) avec le temps est confirmé à l'aide d'une moyenne des sorties d'une photodiode de surveillance (82) pour détecter la sortie optique de la diode laser.

15 4. Procédé selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel l'état de détérioration de la diode laser (81) avec le temps est confirmé en utilisant une valeur de crête de sorties d'une photodiode de surveillance (82) pour détecter la sortie optique de la diode laser.

20 5. Circuit de commande de diode laser commandant un circuit, comprenant :

25 une diode laser (81) ;
un capteur de température (10) pour détecter une température ambiante ;

30 une photodiode de surveillance (82) pour détecter une sortie optique de ladite diode laser ; des moyens de mémoire (50) pour stocker, en correspondance avec des températures ambiantes, des valeurs de courant de polarisation réglées autour d'un courant de seuil d'émission de lumière de ladite diode laser, des valeurs de courant d'impulsion pour faire émettre de la lumière à ladite diode laser, et des valeurs de sortie initiales de ladite photodiode de surveillance, et fournir en sortie une valeur de courant de polarisation, une valeur de courant d'impulsion et une valeur de sortie initiale de ladite photodiode de surveillance correspondant à une température ambiante détectée par ledit capteur de température ;

35 des moyens de détection de l'état de détérioration en fonction du temps (55, 57, 60, 65, 70) pour comparer la valeur de sortie initiale de ladite photodiode de surveillance provenant desdits moyens de mémoire avec une valeur de sortie de courant, et générer un signal représentant un état de détérioration de ladite diode laser au cours du temps ; et

40 des moyens de contrôle du courant (40, 41, 42) pour déterminer un courant d'impulsion (lac) pour ladite diode laser sur la base de la valeur du courant d'impulsion provenant desdits moyens de mémoire, déterminer un courant de polarisation (Idc , lac) pour ladite diode laser sur

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la base de la valeur de courant de polarisation provenant desdits moyens de mémoire et le signal représentant l'état de détérioration au cours du temps provenant desdits moyens de détection de l'état de détérioration en fonction du temps, et commander ladite diode laser par un courant préparé en superposant le courant de polarisation et le courant d'impulsion.

6. Circuit de commande de diode laser, comprenant :

une diode laser (81) ;
 un capteur de température (10) pour détecter une température ambiante ;
 une photodiode de surveillance (82) pour détecter une sortie optique de ladite diode laser ;
 des moyens de mémoire (50) pour stocker, en correspondance avec des températures ambiantes, des valeurs de courant de polarisation réglées autour d'un courant de seuil d'émission de lumière de ladite diode laser, des valeurs de courant d'impulsion pour faire émettre de la lumière à ladite diode laser, et des valeurs de sortie initiales de ladite photodiode de surveillance, et fournir en sortie une valeur de courant de polarisation, une valeur de courant d'impulsion et une valeur de sortie initiale de ladite photodiode de surveillance correspondant à une température ambiante détectée par ledit capteur de température ;
 des moyens de détection de l'état de détérioration en fonction du temps (55, 57, 60, 65, 70) pour comparer la valeur de sortie initiale de ladite photodiode de surveillance provenant desdits moyens de mémoire avec une valeur de sortie courante, et générer un signal représentant un état de détérioration de ladite diode laser au cours du temps ; et
 des moyens de contrôle du courant (40, 41, 42) pour déterminer un courant de polarisation (Idc , $Iapc1$) et un courant d'impulsion (Iac , $Iapc2$) pour ladite diode laser sur la base de la valeur de courant de polarisation et de la valeur de courant d'impulsion provenant desdits moyens de mémoire, et le signal représentant l'état de détérioration au cours du temps provenant desdits moyens de détection de l'état de détérioration en fonction du temps, et commander ladite diode laser à l'aide d'un courant préparé en superposant le courant de polarisation et le courant d'impulsion.

7. Circuit selon la revendication 5 ou 6, dans lequel lesdits moyens de mémoire stockent une moyenne des sorties initiales de ladite photodiode de surveillance, et

lesdits moyens de détection de l'état de détérioration en fonction du temps comprennent un dé-

tecteur de moyenne pour détecter une moyenne des sorties courantes de ladite photodiode de surveillance.

5 8. Circuit selon la revendication 5 ou 6, dans lequel lesdits moyens de mémoire stockent une valeur de crête des sorties initiales de ladite photodiode de surveillance, et

lesdits moyens de détection de l'état de détérioration en fonction du temps comprennent un détecteur de crête pour détecter une valeur de crête des sorties courantes de ladite photodiode de surveillance.

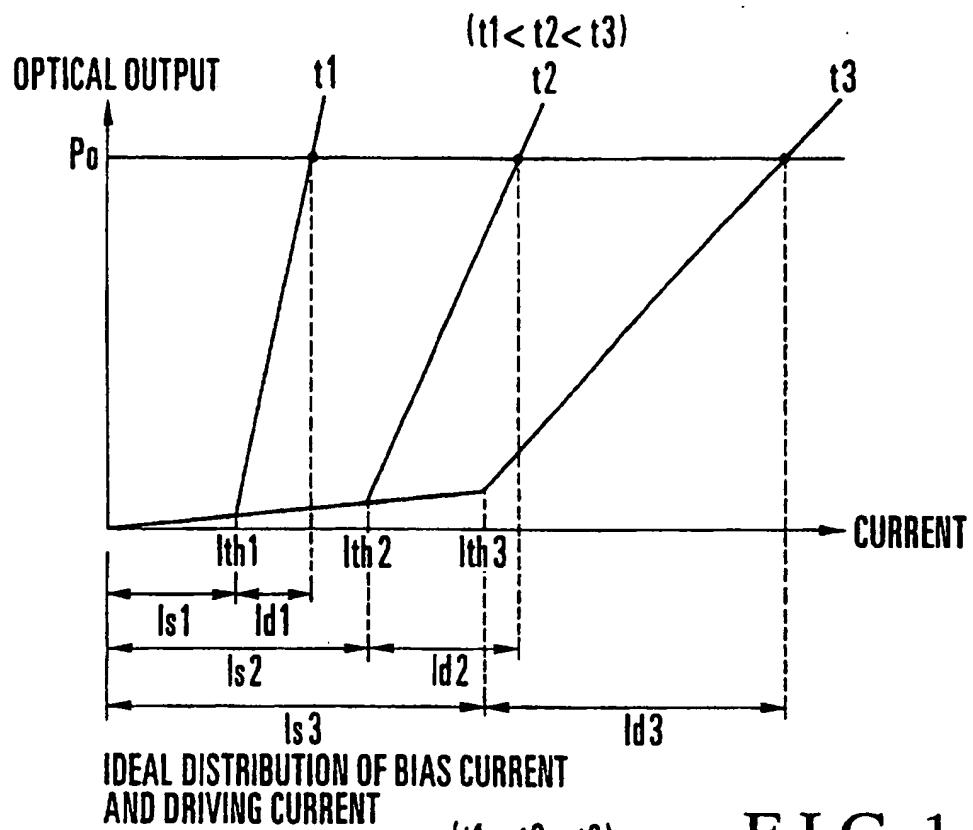


FIG. 1 A

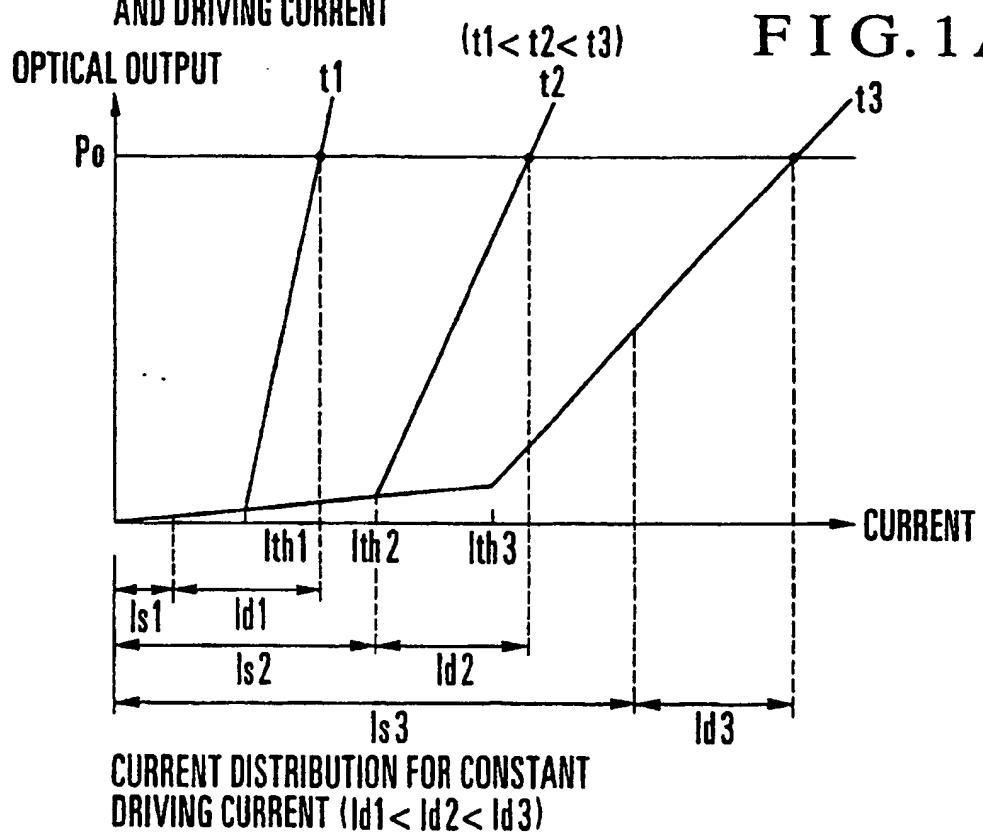


FIG. 1 B

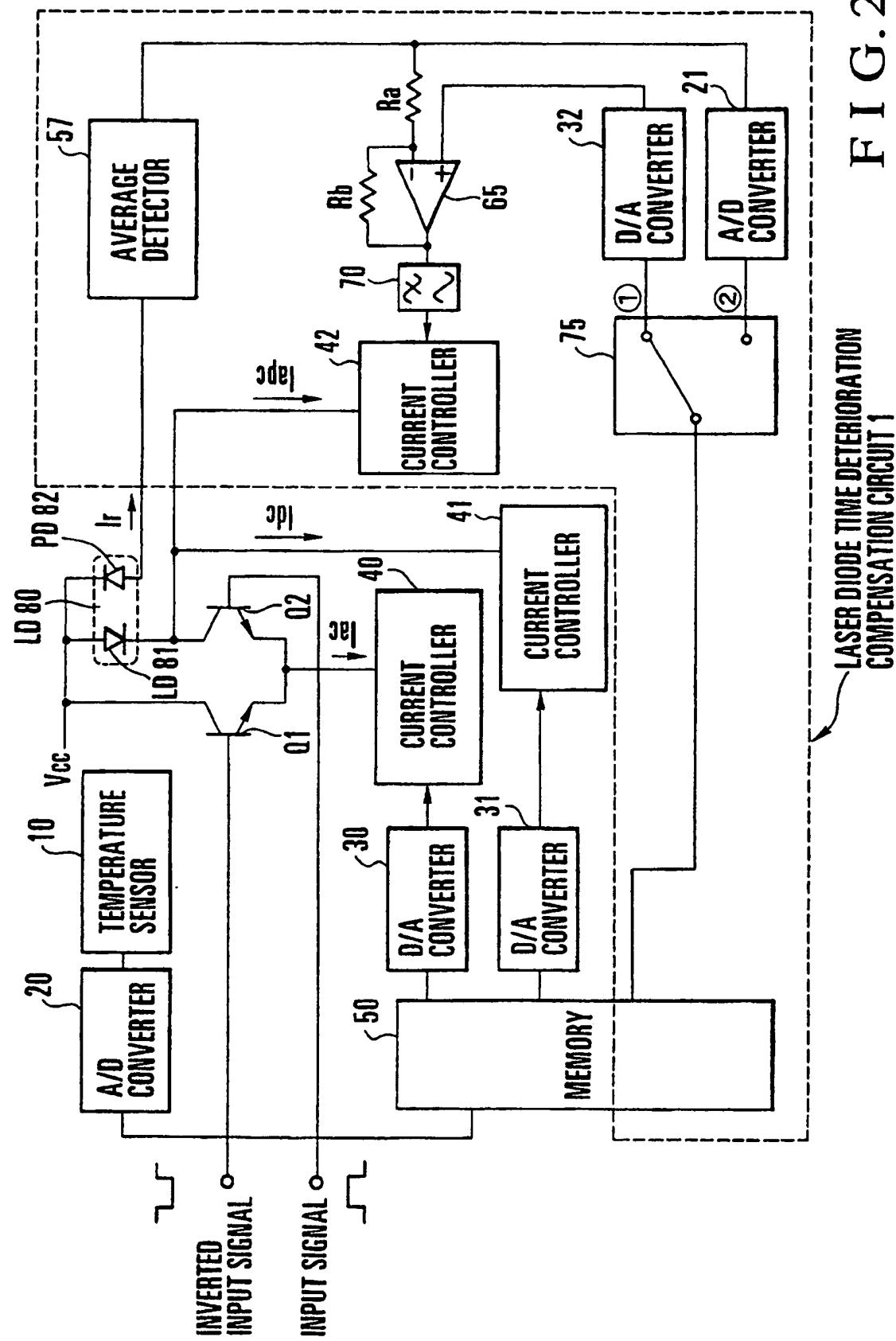
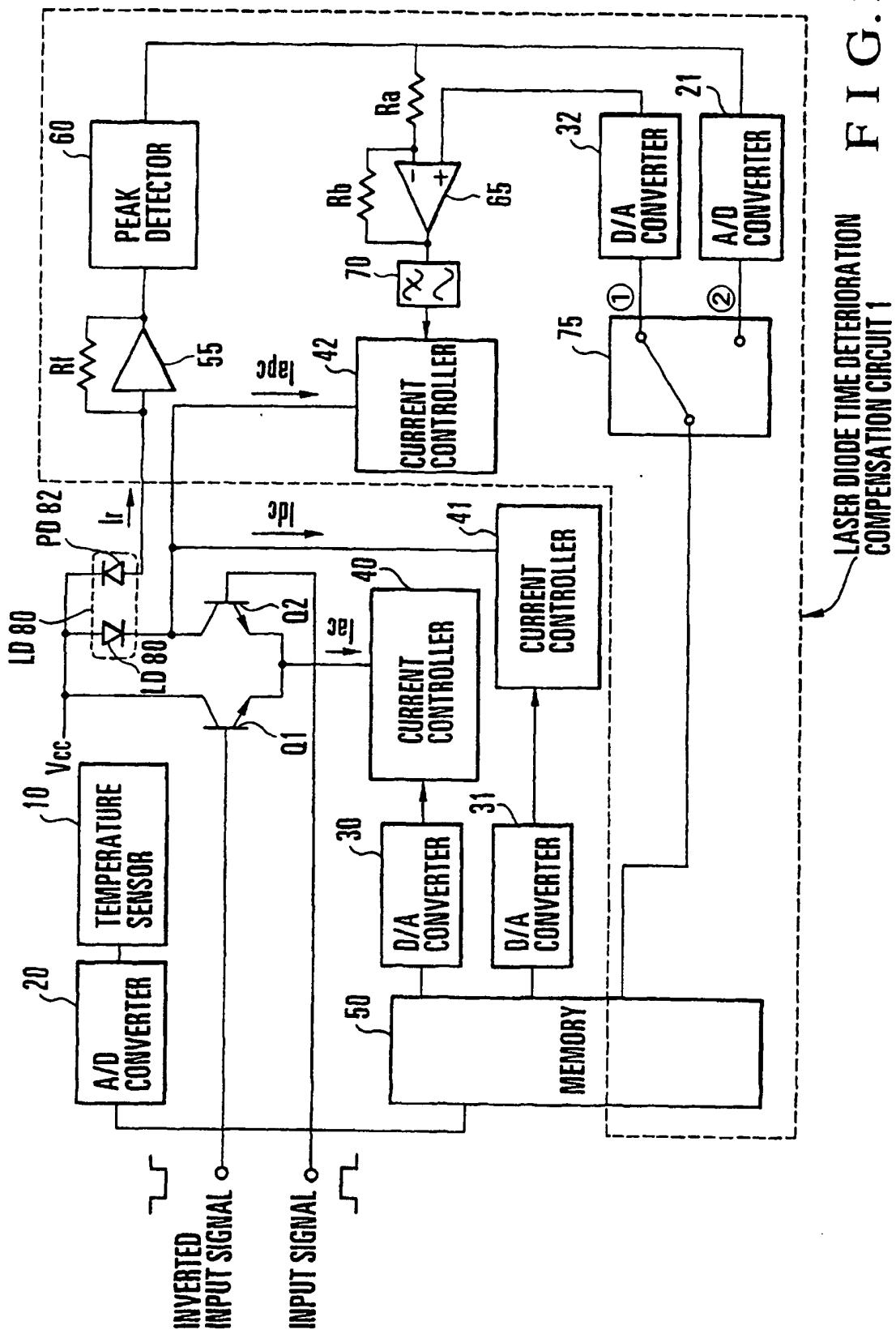
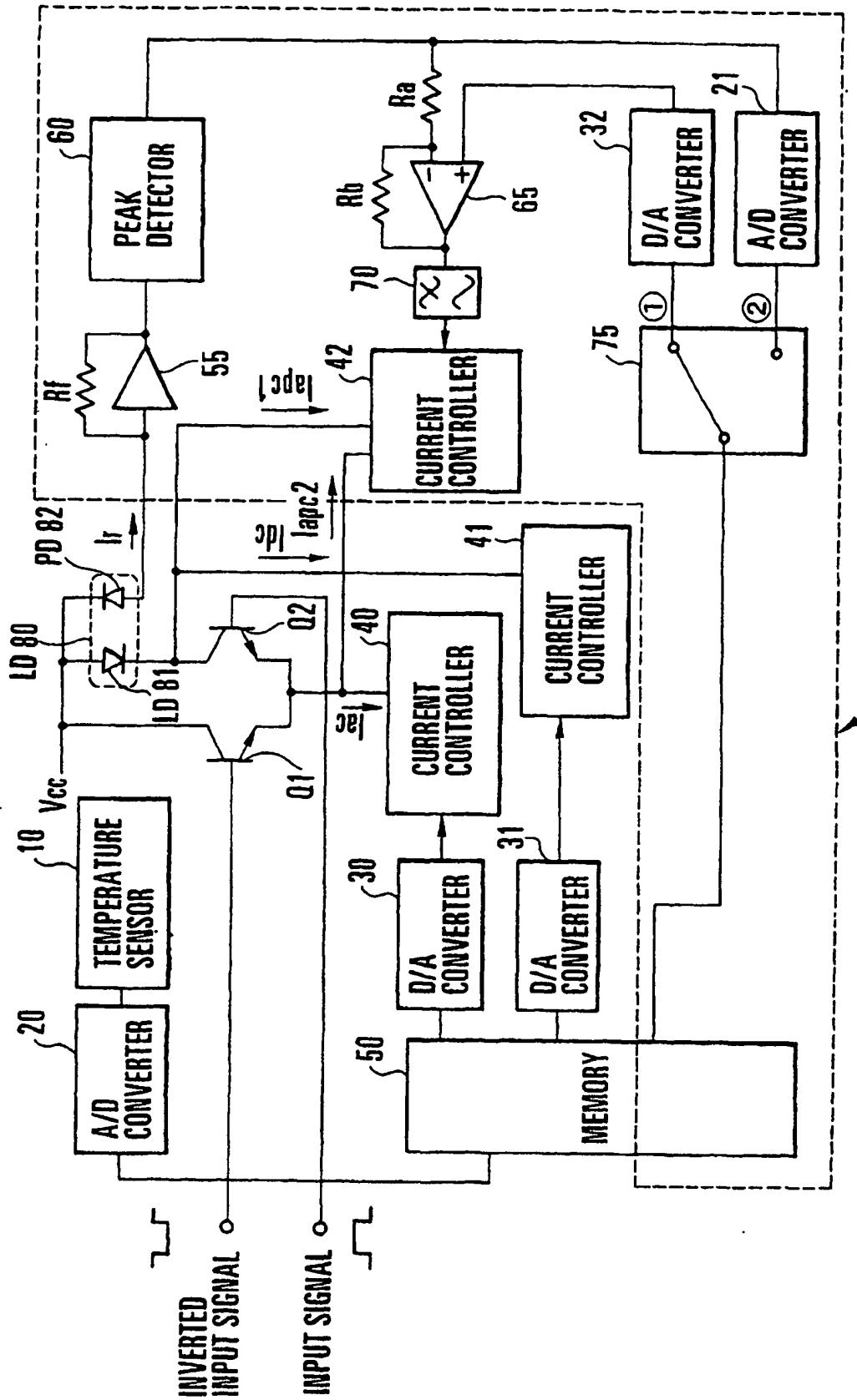
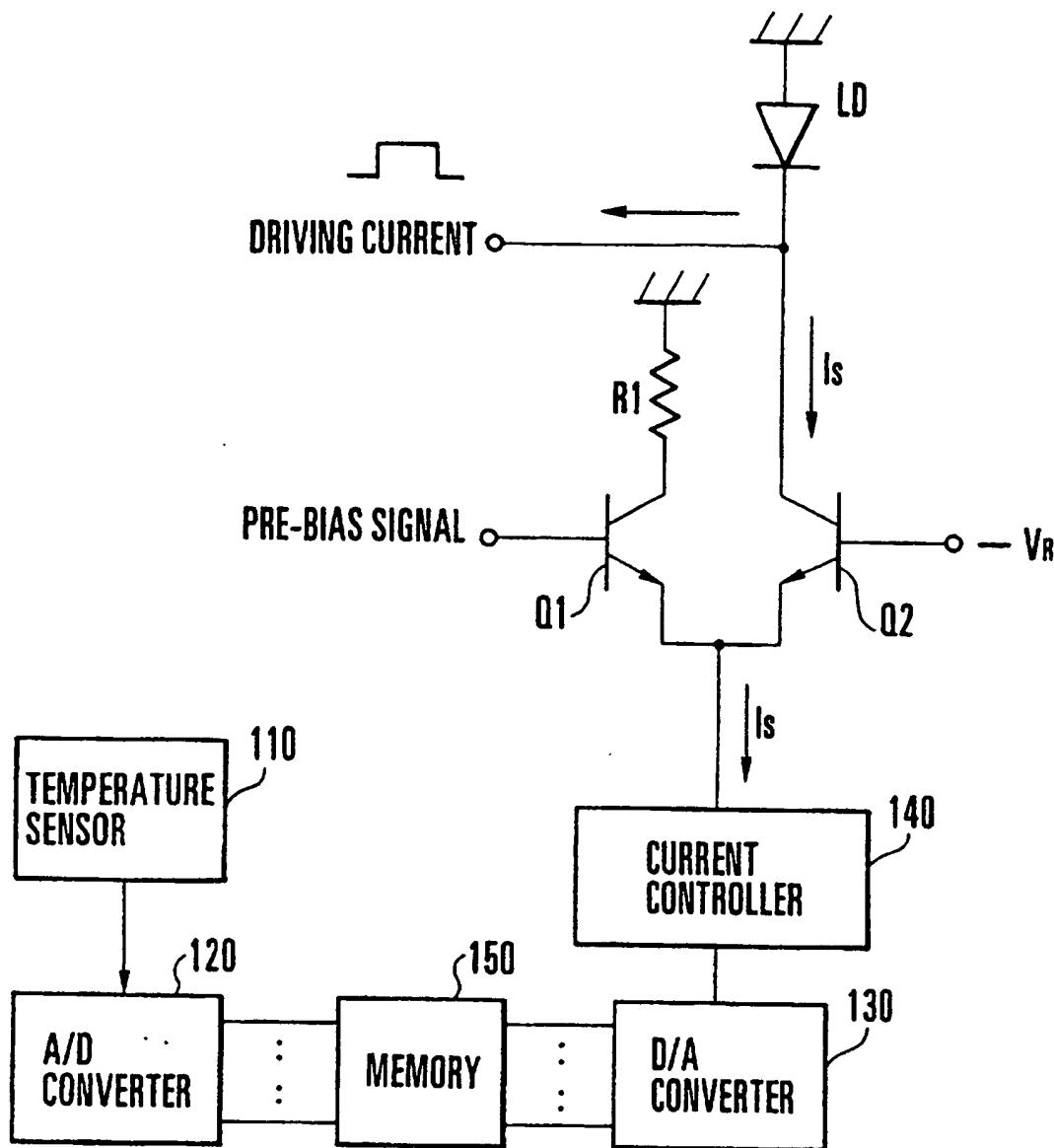


FIG. 2





F I G. 4 LASER DIODE TIME DETERIORATION COMPENSATION CIRCUIT 1



F I G. 5
PRIOR ART



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 12 0149

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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 The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

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